

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-20. (cancelled)

21. (New) A computer-readable medium embodying a computer program for tax data collection by an electronic intermediary, said computer program comprising code segments for:

- connecting electronically said electronic intermediary to a tax data provider;
- collecting electronically tax data from said tax data provider, wherein said tax data is taxpayer specific tax data;
- processing electronically said tax data collected electronically from said tax data provider to obtain processed tax data; and
- preparing electronically an electronic tax return using said processed tax data.

22. (New) A computer-readable medium as in claim 21, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data comprises taxpayer specific data related to tax liability.

23. (New) A computer-readable medium as in claim 21, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data comprises at least one of taxpayer specific income, gain, loss, deduction, wages, interest, dividends, capital gains, capital losses, residential mortgage interest, and taxes.

24. (New) A computer-readable medium as in claim 21, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data corresponds to at least one item of tax liability reported on at least one of an Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") form, a state form, a local form, and a foreign tax form.

25. (New) A computer-readable medium as in claim 24, wherein said at least one item of tax liability comprises at least one of income, gain, loss, deduction, wages, interest, dividends, capital gains, capital losses, residential mortgage interest, and taxes.

26. (New) A computer-readable medium as in claim 24, wherein said IRS form comprises one of an IRS Form 1040, an IRS Form 1040EZ, an IRS Form W-2, an IRS Form 1098, and an IRS Form 1099.

27. (New) A computer-readable medium as in claim 21, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data is collected electronically via the Internet.

28. (New) A computer-readable medium as in claim 21, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data is collected electronically via electronic mail.

29. (New) A method for tax data collection by an electronic intermediary comprising:
connecting electronically said electronic intermediary to a tax data provider;
collecting electronically tax data from said tax data provider, wherein said tax data is taxpayer specific tax data;
processing electronically said tax data collected electronically from said tax data provider to obtain processed tax data; and
preparing electronically an electronic tax return using said processed tax data.

30. (New) A method as in claim 29, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data comprises taxpayer specific data related to tax liability.

31. (New) A method as in claim 29, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data comprises at least one of taxpayer specific income, gain, loss, deduction, wages, interest, dividends, capital gains, capital losses, residential mortgage interest, and taxes.

32. (New) A method as in claim 29, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data corresponds to at least one item of tax liability reported on at least one of an Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) form, a state form, a local form, and a foreign tax form.

33. (New) A method as in claim 32, wherein said at least one item of tax liability comprises at least one of income, gain, loss, deduction, wages, interest, dividends, capital gains, capital losses, residential mortgage interest, and taxes.

34. (New) A method as in claim 32, wherein said IRS form comprises one of an IRS Form 1040, an IRS Form 1040EZ, an IRS Form W-2, an IRS Form 1098, and an IRS Form 1099.

35. (New) A method as in claim 29, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data is collected electronically via the Internet.

36. (New) A method as in claim 29, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data is collected electronically via electronic mail.

37. (New) An apparatus for tax data collection by an electronic intermediary comprising:

means for connecting electronically said electronic intermediary to a tax data provider;

means for collecting electronically tax data from said tax data provider, wherein said tax data is taxpayer specific tax data;

means for processing electronically said tax data collected electronically from said tax data provider to obtain processed tax data; and

means for preparing electronically an electronic tax return using said processed tax data.

38. (New) An apparatus as in claim 37, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data comprises taxpayer specific data related to tax liability.

39. (New) An apparatus as in claim 37, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data comprises at least one of taxpayer specific income, gain, loss, deduction, wages, interest, dividends, capital gains, capital losses, residential mortgage interest, and taxes.

40. (New) An apparatus as in claim 37, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data corresponds to at least one item of tax liability reported on at least one of an Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") form, a state form, a local form, and a foreign tax form.

41. (New) An apparatus as in claim 40, wherein said at least one item of tax liability comprises at least one of income, gain, loss, deduction, wages, interest, dividends, capital gains, capital losses, residential mortgage interest, and taxes.

42. (New) An apparatus as in claim 40, wherein said IRS form comprises one of an IRS Form 1040, an IRS Form 1040EZ, an IRS Form W-2, an IRS Form 1098, and an IRS Form 1099.

43. (New) An apparatus as in claim 37, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data is collected electronically via the Internet.

44. (New) An apparatus as in claim 37, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data is collected electronically via electronic mail.

45. (New) A computer-readable medium embodying a computer program for tax data collection by an electronic intermediary, said computer program comprising code segments for:

connecting electronically a tax data provider to said electronic intermediary; and

providing electronically tax data from said tax data provider to said electronic intermediary, wherein said tax data is taxpayer specific tax data;

wherein said electronic intermediary processes electronically said tax data collected electronically from said tax data provider to obtain processed tax data;

wherein said electronic intermediary prepares electronically an electronic tax return using said processed tax data.

46. (New) A computer-readable medium as in claim 45, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data comprises taxpayer specific data related to tax liability.

47. (New) A computer-readable medium as in claim 45, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data comprises at least one of taxpayer specific income, gain, loss, deduction, wages, interest, dividends, capital gains, capital losses, residential mortgage interest, and taxes.

48. (New) A computer-readable medium as in claim 45, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data corresponds to at least one item of tax liability reported on at least one of an Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) form, a state form, a local form, and a foreign tax form.

49. (New) A computer-readable medium as in claim 48, wherein said at least one item of tax liability comprises at least one of income, gain, loss, deduction, wages, interest, dividends, capital gains, capital losses, residential mortgage interest, and taxes.

50. (New) A computer-readable medium as in claim 48, wherein said IRS form comprises one of an IRS Form 1040, an IRS Form 1040EZ, an IRS Form W-2, an IRS Form 1098, and an IRS Form 1099.

51. (New) A computer-readable medium as in claim 45, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data is provided electronically via the Internet.

52. (New) A computer-readable medium as in claim 45, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data is provided electronically via electronic mail.

53. (New) A method for tax data collection by an electronic intermediary comprising:
connecting electronically a tax data provider to said electronic intermediary; and
providing electronically tax data from said tax data provider to said electronic intermediary, wherein said tax data is taxpayer specific tax data;
wherein said electronic intermediary processes electronically said tax data collected electronically from said tax data provider to obtain processed tax data;
wherein said electronic intermediary prepares electronically an electronic tax return using said processed tax data.

54. (New) A method as in claim 53, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data comprises taxpayer specific data related to tax liability.

55. (New) A method as in claim 53, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data comprises at least one of taxpayer specific income, gain, loss, deduction, wages, interest, dividends, capital gains, capital losses, residential mortgage interest, and taxes.

56. (New) A method as in claim 53, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data corresponds to at least one item of tax liability reported on at least one of an Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) form, a state form, a local form, and a foreign tax form.

57. (New) A method as in claim 56, wherein said at least one item of tax liability comprises at least one of income, gain, loss, deduction, wages, interest, dividends, capital gains, capital losses, residential mortgage interest, and taxes.

58. (New) A method as in claim 56, wherein said IRS form comprises one of an IRS Form 1040, an IRS Form 1040EZ, an IRS Form W-2, an IRS Form 1098, and an IRS Form 1099.

59. (New) A method as in claim 53, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data is provided electronically via the Internet.

60. (New) A method as in claim 53, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data is provided electronically via electronic mail.

61. (New) An apparatus for tax data collection by an electronic intermediary comprising:

means for connecting electronically a tax data provider to said electronic intermediary;

and

means for providing electronically tax data from said tax data provider to said electronic intermediary, wherein said tax data is taxpayer specific tax data;

wherein said electronic intermediary processes electronically said tax data collected electronically from said tax data provider to obtain processed tax data;

wherein said electronic intermediary prepares electronically an electronic tax return using said processed tax data.

62. (New) An apparatus as in claim 61, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data comprises taxpayer specific data related to tax liability.

63. (New) An apparatus as in claim 61, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data comprises at least one of taxpayer specific income, gain, loss, deduction, wages, interest, dividends, capital gains, capital losses, residential mortgage interest, and taxes.

64. (New) An apparatus as in claim 61, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data corresponds to at least one item of tax liability reported on at least one of an Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") form, a state form, a local form, and a foreign tax form.

65. (New) An apparatus as in claim 64, wherein said at least one item of tax liability comprises at least one of income, gain, loss, deduction, wages, interest, dividends, capital gains, capital losses, residential mortgage interest, and taxes.

66. (New) An apparatus as in claim 64, wherein said IRS form comprises one of an IRS Form 1040, an IRS Form 1040EZ, an IRS Form W-2, an IRS Form 1098, and an IRS Form 1099.

67. (New) An apparatus as in claim 61, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data is provided electronically via the Internet.

68. (New) An apparatus as in claim 61, wherein said taxpayer specific tax data is provided electronically via electronic mail.